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said endless casting belt mounted adjacent said manifold, said belt facing said discharge opening, said roller rotatably mounted adjacent said endless belt to form a gap between an outer surface of said roller and the surface of said belt and said manifold disposed such that said molten, viscous material is received in said gap from said discharge opening, said belt being revolving driven such that said molten, viscous material passes between said gap to form said continuous sheet of molten, viscous material therebetween, wherein said molten, viscous material cools on said belt; and
a first drive mechanism connected to said belt for causing said belt to revolve.

B2
7. (Twice Amended) A manifold for forming a continuous sheet from a molten, viscous material upon a casting belt of a casting line positioned downstream of said manifold for transporting said molten, viscous material upon said casting belt moving in a first direction, wherein said molten, viscous material cools on said belt, said manifold comprising:
a roller positioned such that a longitudinal axis of said roller is perpendicular to the first direction of said casting belt;
a chamber having an interior portion, disposed adjacent to said roller;
said chamber having top, bottom, end, upstream and downstream face plates;
said bottom face open to the casting belt along at least a part of the length of said bottom face;
said downstream face open to the roller along at least a part of the length of said downstream face;
said top face having at least one inlet;
said manifold being removably mountable mounted adjacent said casting belt in at least one mounting area.

In The Claims, Please Add Claims 17-22 As Follows:

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Sub 57
17. An apparatus for forming a continuous sheet from a molten, viscous cheese material comprising:
a pump connected to an inlet to pump said molten, viscous cheese material under pressure;
a discharge manifold, said manifold having a hollow interior chamber, said chamber having at least one inlet for receiving said molten, viscous cheese material from

said pump and a discharge opening on at least one side for discharging said molten, viscous cheese material, and a roller;

a casting line positioned downstream of said discharge manifold and comprising an endless casting belt that transports said molten, viscous cheese material upon said casting belt;

said endless casting belt mounted adjacent said manifold, said belt facing said discharge opening, said roller rotatably mounted adjacent said endless belt to form a gap between an outer surface of said roller and the surface of said belt and said manifold disposed such that said molten, viscous cheese material is received in said gap from said discharge opening, said belt being revolving driven such that said molten, viscous cheese material passes between said gap to form said continuous sheet of molten, viscous cheese material therebetween, wherein said molten, viscous cheese material cools on said belt; and a first drive mechanism connected to said belt for causing said belt to revolve.

BB Sub 57 18. A manifold for forming a continuous sheet from a molten, viscous cheese material upon a casting belt of a casting line moving in a first direction, said manifold comprising:
a roller positioned such that a longitudinal axis of said roller is perpendicular to the first direction of said casting belt;

said casting line positioned downstream of said manifold for transporting said molten, viscous cheese material upon said casting belt, wherein said molten, viscous cheese material cools on said belt;

a chamber, having an interior portion, disposed adjacent to said roller;
said chamber having top, bottom, end, upstream and downstream face plates;
said bottom face open to the casting belt along at least a part of the length of said bottom face;

said downstream face open to the roller along at least a part of the length of said downstream face;

said top face having at least one inlet;
said manifold being removably mountable mounted adjacent said casting belt in at least one mounting area.

19. A method for forming a thin continuous sheet of material from a molten, viscous cheese starting material comprising the steps of:

- a. driving a casting belt of a casting line in a constant direction;
- b. introducing said molten, viscous cheese starting material through at least one inlet into chamber of a manifold that is mounted in a mounting area so that the manifold sits adjacent the casting belt at a fixed distance and disposes said molten, viscous cheese starting material onto said casting belt through an outlet;
- c. driving a roller in the same direction as said casting belt, said roller being attached to said manifold downstream of said outlet and above said outlet such that said molten, viscous cheese starting material passes between said roller and said belt;
- d. drawing the molten, viscous cheese starting material from said chamber through the tandem movement of the roller and the casting belt in the same direction;
- e. dispensing a continuous sheet of material upon the casting belt as the belt is revolvingly driven; and
- f. cooling said continuous sheet of material on said casting belt.

20. An apparatus for forming a continuous sheet from a molten, viscous material comprising:

a pump connected to an inlet to pump said molten, viscous material under pressure;

a discharge manifold, said manifold having a hollow interior chamber, said chamber having at least one inlet for receiving said molten, viscous material from said pump and a discharge opening on at least one side for discharging said molten, viscous material under pressure, and a roller;

a casting line positioned downstream of said discharge manifold and comprising an endless casting belt that transports said molten, viscous material upon said casting belt;

said endless casting belt mounted adjacent said manifold, said belt facing said discharge opening, said roller rotatably mounted adjacent said endless belt to form a gap between an outer surface of said roller and the surface of said belt and said manifold disposed such that said molten, viscous material is received in said gap from said discharge

opening, said belt being revolving driven such that said molten, viscous material passes between said gap to form said continuous sheet of molten, viscous material therebetween, wherein said molten, viscous material cools on said belt; and
a first drive mechanism connected to said belt for causing said belt to revolve.

21. A manifold for forming a continuous sheet from a molten, viscous material exiting the manifold under pressure upon a casting belt of a casting line moving in a first direction, said manifold comprising:

a roller positioned such that a longitudinal axis of said roller is perpendicular to the first direction of said casting belt;

said casting line positioned downstream of said manifold for transporting said molten, viscous material upon said casting belt, wherein said molten, viscous material cools on said belt;

a chamber, having an interior portion, disposed adjacent to said roller;
said chamber having top, bottom, end, upstream and downstream face plates;
said bottom face open to the casting belt along at least a part of the length of

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said bottom face;

said downstream face open to the roller along at least a part of the length of
said downstream face;

said downstream face open to the roller along at least a part of the length of
said downstream face;

said top face having at least one inlet;

said manifold being removably mountable mounted adjacent said casting belt
in at least one mounting area.

22. A method for forming a thin continuous sheet of material from a molten, viscous starting material comprising the steps of:

a. driving a casting belt of a casting line in a constant direction;

b. introducing said starting material through at least one inlet into

chamber of a manifold that is mounted in a mounting area so that the manifold sits adjacent the casting belt at a fixed distance and disposes said starting material onto said casting belt through an outlet;